

(b) to (e). 500 pieces of gold bearing markings indicating their foreign origin collectively weighing 58.325 kgs. and valued at Rs. 2.81 crores approximately were seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 25/01/1992 from a consignment which had arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, in the name of a foreign embassy official. The gold had been concealed in a washing machine and cooking range imported along with other household goods. Investigations have revealed that the foreign embassy official was not involved. Two persons Rajkumar Gupta and Trilochan Singh, both of Delhi, who were found to be involved have been arrested on 25/01/1992 and have also been detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Preservation of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 with effect from 13/02/1992.

(f) and (g). Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has reported one other instance during the last 3 years in which 3699 kgs. of silver valued at Rs. 2,58,93,000/- approximately were seized in 1989 from a consignment imported in the name of a foreign embassy. The embassy had denied having imported the consignment and disowned it. Since the goods were unclaimed, no person was arrested.

Visit of delegation to Russia

1804. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRIGEOGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official delegation visited Russia recently to hold talks with individual Republics in the Commonwealth on various issues relating to trade and commerce and rupee-rouble problems etc.; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held with each of the Republics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). An official level delegation led by the Foreign Secretary had visited Moscow in January, 1992. The delegation had discussions with the Russian Government on different bilateral issues including economic co-operation and trade relations. As a follow-up to this visit, a Russian delegation had visited India in the third week of February, 1992. During this visit an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation was initiated and is expected to be signed in the near future. A bilateral Trade Protocol for 1992 was also concluded during this visit. Separately, Trade Agreements with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have also been concluded. Discussions have also been held with the Republics of Ukraine, Belarus and Azerbaijan.

World Bank and IMF Lending Schedules

1805. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the lending schedule for India, evolved at the last round of the World Bank and I.M.F. meets;

(b) the under askings sought from India during the meetings with regard to the various steps taken and being taken to rejuvenate India's economy; and

(c) the clarification's offered by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The lending schedule for India is not discussed at the Annual World Bank and I.M.F. meetings.